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MEETING OF ILLINOIS MAYORS AT EVANSTON.

LETTER FROM HON. JOSEPH E. PADEN, MAYOR OF EVANSTON.

June 5, 1912.

MY DEAR MRS. WEBER:

I thank you very much indeed, for your courteous letter of June 3rd, expressing regret that I was not present at the last annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society, and asking that I say a few words about the annual meeting of the Illinois Mayors' Association which took place in Evanston at practically the same time. I regretted very much that I was not able to attend the meeting of the Historical Society, but, as I previously wrote you, the work of entertaining our own guests prevented.

The annual meeting of the Illinois Mayors' Association was held in Evanston on May 28th and 29th, and was attended by the Mayors of about fifty of the principal cities of the State. This Association is entirely non-political and its chief object is the conference and interchange of information and experiences of executive officers in furtherance of the interest of the people of their respective communities. When it is realized that fully one-half of the people of this State reside in cities and villages, and that control of the individual and the collection and expenditure of his taxes and assessments are so largely governed by these officials, the importance of these meetings is apparent.

The visiting guests were welcomed to the city by the Mayor of Evanston on the morning of May 28th and response was made by the Honorable E. N. Woodruff, Mayor of Peoria, President of the Association. Afterwards, Mr. Woodruff delivered the President's annual address in which he very ably reviewed the work that is

required of executive officials. Following this address, a very instructive paper was read by Mr. A. L. Bowen, Secretary of the State Charities Commission, upon the subject "What shall we do with our Epileptics," and forceful comments were also made thereon by Mr. Sherman C. Kingsley, Vice President for Illinois of the National Red Cross Society. Dr. Frank Billings of Chicago had previously accepted an invitation to make the address upon this topic, but on account of an unexpected trip to Europe, Mr. Bowen, at Dr. Billing's request, and with the approval of the Association, took his place.

By invitation of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Patten, the members were entertained at luncheon at one o'clock at their residence and thereafter an automobile trip was taken about the City of Evanston for the purpose of inspecting its streets and municipal service plants. By courtesy of the Evanston Commercial Association, the members were also entertained at a Smoker and Good Fellowship meeting at their rooms during the evening, which occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by all the visiting officials.

At the meeting held on the morning of May 29th, Dean Walter T. Sumner, President of the Chicago Vice Commission, delivered a most able and entertaining address upon the work of that commission and made recommendations for the control of vice conditions in other cities. President Abram W. Harris of Northwestern University, who is also a member of this Commission, was present and forcefully supplemented the address of Dean Sumner with an expression of his own views. At the conclusion of these addresses, Mr. William J. Hagenah of Wisconsin delivered a most illuminating address upon "Public Service Corporations, their regulation and control."

At the afternoon meeting, a paper prepared by Dr. Edward Bartow, Director of the State Water Survey, on the subject "Purification of Water Supplies" was read. This paper abounded in useful information for the benefit of cities of this State and commanded the closest attention. Thereafter, the visiting officials in open meeting discussed

the papers that had been read, and also discussed many other questions of keen interest in the government of their respective communities, such as the establishment of Municipal Markets, the Disposal of Garbage, the Disposal of Sewage, and the like. These discussions were most useful in giving information and hints which are not easily acquired in any other way. At the conclusion of this discussion, the City of Rockford was chosen for the next meeting place and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mayor William H. Stolte, Chicago Heights; Vice-President, Mayor William W. Bennett, Rockford; Secretary, Arthur G. Brown, Rockford; Treasurer, Mayor J. M. Page, Jerseyville; Statistician, William G. Adkins of Chicago; Directors: Mayors Joseph E. Paden, Evanston; E. N. Woodruff, Peoria; John S. Schnepp, Springfield; J. G. Brown, Fox Lake; Albert Fehrmann, Elgin; William D. Gayle, Lincoln; J. B. Blackman, Harrisburg; Martin R. Carlson, Moline; John F. Garner, Quincy; George Parsons, Cairo; and Ex-Mayor E. S. MacDonald of Decatur. A legislative committee consisting of Mayors Paden of Evanston, Woodruff of Peoria and Carlson of Moline, was also appointed to speak for the Association upon Bills which may be presented before the Legislature.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the visiting officers were entertained at dinner at the Evanston Country Club by the officials of Evanston, and through the courtesy of the North Shore Festival Association, attended the opening concert that evening at the Patten Gymnasium upon the Northwestern University campus.

I want to assure you that the officials and the people of Evanston enjoyed the visit of these earnest officials and I believe it is also safe to say that the visitors were also pleased with their trip.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH E. PADEN.

Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber,
Secretary, Springfield, Illinois.